

LII.—A Note on *Loligo media* (L.). By ANNE L. MASSY, Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, Fisheries Branch, Dublin.

I HAVE carefully examined the tentacular suckers in examples of this species, of both sexes, from the east and west coasts of Ireland, and find them in all cases to be plentifully armed with teeth. In this respect they differ from the diagnosis given by Hoyle *, who agrees with Jatta in saying that the horny ring of the tentacular suckers is perfectly smooth †. Dr. Allen and Mr. Todd, of the Marine Biological Association, have kindly sent me specimens from Plymouth and from off the coast of Lincolnshire. These also have toothed tentacular suckers. Through the courtesy of the Director of the Zoological Station at Naples I have been enabled to examine one of the specimens used by the late Dr. Jatta in his description of the species. It agrees, in the presence of teeth on the tentacular suckers, with the English and Irish examples mentioned above.

The specimens from off Trusthorpe, Lincolnshire, are the largest, and therefore offer the greatest facility for minute examination of the suckers. Each sucker appears to have about twenty-four large pointed teeth, with here and there a minute conical tooth between two large ones. The points of the large teeth are in many cases broken off.

Several authors have suspected that *L. marmoræ* ‡ was the female of *L. media*. Having read Joubin's paper in support of this view, I separated all the individuals in our collection having fins more or less in the position typical of *L. marmoræ*, and found them to be female, with two exceptions. The latter were very young males, and obviously their youth accounted for the position of their fins. All those with lengthened extremity proved to be without exception male.

* "Notes from the Manchester Museum.—No. 9. British Cephalopoda; their Nomenclature and Identification." P. 203: "Suckers of tentacular arms with a smooth ring—*Loligo media*."

† 'I Cephalopodi viventi nel Golfo di Napoli.' P. 186: "L'anello corneo delle ventose tentacolari è in tutto il suo ambito egualmente sviluppato liscio perfettamente sopra il margine libero."

‡ Bull. Soc. scient. médic. de l'ouest, Rennes, xi. 1902: "Quelques observations sur *Loligo media*."